

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed on June 15, 2005, Applicants provide the following remarks.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. The Examiner has requested restriction of Examination to elect a single invention from one of two groups to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, including claims 1-20, is drawn to a method to authenticate a message and entity including applying the Chinese remainder method.

Group II, including claims 21-24, is drawn to a controller designed to authenticate a message and entity including designating a private value unknown to the controller device.

Applicants traverse to the extent that they do not acquiesce to the Examiner's logic in requesting the above restriction. Claims 1-8 are drawn to a method wherein a first cryptographic entity called "demonstrator" and a second cryptographic entity called "controller" mutually interact. This method is of the "zero-knowledge" type, and the demonstrator does not disclose its private values to the controller.

Further, claims 9-16 are drawn to the devices used by said demonstrator and controller for the purpose of implementing said method. Claims 17-20 are drawn to the device used by said demonstrator. Moreover, claims 21-24 are drawn to the device used by said controller. Therefore, claims 21-24 clearly relate to the same general inventive concept as claims 1-20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of requesting the above restriction.

If, however, the Examiner still disagrees with this analysis, Applicants respectfully elect Group I, which includes claims 1-20. In addition, the group descriptions supplied above are not to be taken as limiting of the subject matter claimed.

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Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of claims pending herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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